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News Release

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BAINUM PROPOSES CHANGES TO UNCONTESTED ELECTIONS

HONOLULU—Councilmember Duke Bainum announced today that he has proposed a bill asking the State Legislature to clarify and open up the election process. Bainum's proposed legislation would provide an automatic extension of 5 calendar days from the filing deadline in the event an uncontested election is created in the 72 hours prior to the current election filing deadline.

Although this legislation will not solve the problem of flawed paperwork filed by a candidate or the choice of a candidate to withdraw from a race, it will provide members of the general public additional time to consider filing for an uncontested office.

"In the last election, I fully expected a spirited race for City Council District 5, and prepared for exactly that. I did not expect one of the candidates to drop out, and I certainly did not expect to lose one of my competitors due to a technical filing error," said Councilmember Bainum. "Unfortunately this series of events amplified a flaw in the existing election law."

"As the Councilmember representing Council District V, I am humbled and honored to be serving as their representative."